specific centrally sponsored/central sector schemes under which incentives are provided to farmers for use of quality seeds and location specific high yielding/ hybrid varieties, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements etc. Besides, field demonstrations on farmers' holdings including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Further, under the national agenda for governance, the Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years through adoption of regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

(c) The crop specific schemes are being implemented in Orissa also. Besides, Soil and Water Conservation (SWC), Rainfed Farming System (RFS) and Horticulture Development Schemes are being implemented in the State.

Bilateral talks with Bangladesh

1745. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any bilateral talks with Bangladesh were held in the recent past to thrash out the issues of infiltration, exchange of enclaves and cross border smuggling;

(b) if so, the details thereof and outcome thereto; and

(c) what other steps Government propose to take to curb infiltration and smuggling on Indo-Bangla borders?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Director General level talks between Border Security Force and Bangladesh Rifles were held in Dhaka on 25—28 October, 1998 and Home Secretary level talks were held in Dhaka on 20—22 November, 1998. The exchange of enclaves is directly linked to ratification of the 1974 Land boundary Agreement, which will follow completion of the demarcation of the boundary between India and Bangladesh for which work is going on. Both sides have agreed to adhere to specific procedures for repatriation of illegal immigrants. The Government of Bangladesh have conveyed the assuraance that measures will be taken to strengthen security at the border to prevent illegal border crossing. Both sides also agreed to intensify cooperation to curb trans-border crimes including smuggling. Government have already undertaken the fencing of the border with Bangladesh in order to curb infiltration and smuggling.

Haj Advisory Committee

1746. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) why Government have not constituted the Haj Advisory Committee at the Central Government level;

(b) whether Government will consider constituting Haj Advisory Committee to advise the Government on Haj matters, consisting of Members of Parliament, Social workers, community leaders etc.;

(c) when is the bill to replace the present Haj Act likely to introduced in the Parliament;

(d) what are the reasons for the delay in introducing the bill inspite of several assurances given to Parliament; and

(e) whether Government are going back on its assurances?

THE MINISTER OF STATER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government of India have decided in principle to revive the Central Haj Advisory Board (CHAB), which had been in continuous existence until 1998, to advise Government on various matters pertaining to Haj;

(c) to (e) Government remains convinced of the need for a new Haj Act to